Workers interest in BALCO and Modern Foods

2656. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI JIBON ROY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee tasked by Prime Minister to look into the disinvestment of BALCO and Modern Foods has found that the interests of the workers have been overlooked by Sterlite and Hindustan Lever; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The tripartite team, comprising of a representative each from the Workers' and Employers' Organisation as well as from the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Labour, was constituted to look into the issue of retrenchment of workers in BALCO and Modern Foods. The team has so far visited BALCO's office/factory at Korba on 13-14th February, 2003 and one unit of Modern Foods located at Mumbai on 29th April, 2003.

Employees Pension Scheme

2657. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any applications of the retired factory workers in Kerala, who exercised the option under Employees Pension Scheme-95, are pending for the payment;

(b) whether the High Court of Kerala passed any direction to admit their claims and grant them pension;

(c) the stage at which the grant of EPF pension to those persons stands at present; and

(d) whether the State Government of Kerala considers to initiate any steps to grant them pension through the Regional Commissioner for EPF Thiruvananthapuram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala had

disposed of the petitions with directions to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner to grant eligible benefits to the petitioners. However, the RPFC, Kerala has appealed before the Division Bench against the directions of Single Bench saying that the decision was not in accordance with the existing provisions of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. The matter is *sub judice*.

(d) The Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is administered by Employees Provident Fund Organisation. It is not operated by the State Government.

I.L.O.'s help for poverty alleviation

2658. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country has sought the help of the International Labour Organisation in rooting out poverty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ILO's response to the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Progress regarding eradication of child labour

†2659. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have written any letter to the Chief Ministers of such States where the child labour is prevalent emphasizing the need of holding regular discussion to monitor the constant progress with regard to abolition of the child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.